



## 2nd Generation K5 Blazer (1973 to 1975)

### Tools needed:

1/8 " drill bit  
Tape measure  
Pencil  
Drill  
Wrenches  
Screwdrivers



### Contents:

2 - Bedrails (2 pieces each)  
2 - Folding frame uprights  
3 - Cross-bows. (color-coded to mate up with uprights) 2 are crowned and 1 (rear) is straight  
2 sets - front door surround components (color-coded)  
1 - Snapstud header bar  
6 - Screw in snap studs. Only 5 get used  
72" sticky back weather bulb seal  
2- Plastic deck hinges with mounting screws  
2 - Black plastic parts and screws for rear window panel crossbar  
1 - 53" long 7/8" crossbar  
2 - 12" long 3/4" bars  
2 - Adjustable webbing straps to tension center crossbar  
3 - Pieces of velcro  
1- Softopper canopy  
1 - Bottle of seam sealer

## Step 1

Connect front and rear portions of bedrails (square tubes). Remove the white protective tape from the weather stripping. Install on vehicle using original hardtop bolts into original hardtop mounting locations. *Note:* A "Drivers side front" sticker is applied to indicate the proper placement. Attach the black plastic parts to the predrilled holes at the rear inside face of each of the bedrails. These may be adjusted later. The one marked (A) goes on the driver side and the other, marked (B) goes on the passenger side. Install the adjustable snap-fit parts with the #12 screws provided.



For Illustration...  
These photos represent the rear of the driver-side bedrail

## Step 2

Attach webbing straps to the rear cross bar (the bar with snaps). Slide the smaller closed loop ends over the rear bar. Best placement when the canopy is installed is between 2nd and 3rd snap on each side. The open/adjustable end will attach to the forward bar of the folding frame once assembled.

Assemble the folding frame arms and the 2 rear crossbars using color codes and ensure the push buttons lock in place. The one with snaps is the rear bar (see picture).



This Photo For Illustration Only

### Step 3

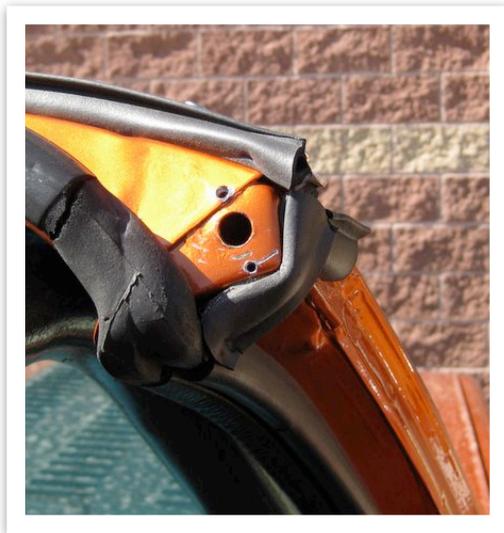
Attach the completed rear frame assembly to the pivot points on the bedrails. Remove the circlips and compress the frame a little to fit the pivot pins into the holes at the bottom of the folding frame. Re-install circlips. Lay the frame rearward and loosely attach the 3/4" webbing strap hooks to the black plastic parts that were installed on the ends of the bedrails.

### Step 4

**Please read this entire step before starting.**

The 1/8" bit may be a little small for the #10 screws. However, it is a good place to start so to avoid drilling too large of a hole for the deck hinge. You may need to bore out and enlarge the hole slightly. Use a screwdriver to install these screws so as not to strip out or break them.

Using a pencil, line up the plastic deck hinge as shown in the 'after' picture (bottom right) and mark the drilling locations for the top hole. Drill a 1/8" hole where marked. Install the deck hinge by the top hole only by using the #10, 3/4" screw. Place the smaller self-drilling screw into the lower hole and carefully drill it into position. *Note:* Do not over-tighten – this may cause screws to strip out. *Note:* Placement does not have to be exact. Just get as close as you can to the photos shown.



Join the horizontal components of the door surrounds and the forward crossbar. Insert the shorter vertical bars into the ends of the front bow using color codes. Attach the adjustable bar (with the slight bend forward) and the sliding/adjustable portion to the rear. Attach the lower vertical bars to the deck hinges on the front of the bedrails (see picture).



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### Step 5

**READ THIS TWICE** before proceeding with the installation of the windshield header bar. *NOTE:* Measure as many times as it takes to find the dead center of the windshield header on the vehicle and mark with a pencil. Line the center snap of the Softopper flat aluminum header bar with center mark. There are 6 - 3/4" stainless steel tapered screws used to secure the header to the upper windshield area. Hold in position to mark the drill holes. *Note:* the leading edge of the header bar in the center should be 1/8" from the rubber windshield seal (as shown in photo at right). Note: use a hand screwdriver or a low torque setting on a power driver so as not to break the screws.

### Step 6

Clean the uppermost flat portion of the windshield from dirt and debris with an appropriate cleaner and install the weather bulb seal, as shown. We have supplied a 72-inch piece but less will be used.



## Step 7

Unfold the canopy and place it on the tailgate in a way where you can attach the rear bar to the snap flap on the upper rear portion of the canopy. Remember to place the webbing straps between the second and third snaps on each end. Pull the canopy up and over the 1st and 2nd bows and attach the front canopy snaps to the header bar snaps. Attach the snaps to the sides starting at the front and moving rearward. New canopies can be quite tight, especially in colder weather. Pull down on the rear portion of the frame to help with the rear snaps if necessary.

Now attach the velcro wraps to their respective bars around the door surround and overhead bow.

## Step 8

**Rear Bar Flap** Insert a 12-inch bar tube into each end of the longer 7/8-inch tube, with the plastic end caps out. Press the bar assembly into the snap-fit parts on the bedrail, adjusting the total length as necessary for a tight side-to-side fit. The idea is to have the larger tube centered and have as little side-to-side movement as possible once secured in the plastic parts and have equal lengths of the smaller tubes protruding from each end.

Mark the location of where the smaller tubes enter the larger tube. The longer tube has pre-drilled holes in each end. These holes will be used to guide a 1/8 inch drill bit into the smaller tube. Hold the smaller tube securely in the larger tube at the correct location and drill through. Install

the #20 screw and repeat on the other end. Insert the finished tube assembly into the window panel sleeve, press into snap-fit parts on both sides and check fit.



Not to Scale

It is highly recommended that boot cover / storage bag is used when the topper is in its retracted position. This will prevent the top from catching in the wind.

Please call us at 1-800-810-7227 if you have any questions.

Or email us at [info@softopper.com](mailto:info@softopper.com)

[www.softopper.com](http://www.softopper.com)



## Warranty

We warrant our 4Runner, Jeep Wrangler, Blazer, Jimmy, Scout and Bronco Softoppers to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one year, with the exception of vinyl windows and zippers, provided there has been normal use and proper maintenance.

**Vinyl Windows** are warranted for a period of 3 months from the date of purchase.

**Zippers** are guaranteed to be in perfect working condition when leaving the factory. Due to atmospheric conditions, dirt, sand, road grime, dust, and abrasive cleaners, etc., zippers are warranted for a period of 6 months from the date of purchase.

**Toyota 4 Runner, Jeep Wrangler, Blazer, Jimmy, Scout and Bronco** side curtain windows are warranted for 45 days from the date of purchase.

**Important:** Retracting or closing the top when the temperature is below 40 degrees is asking for trouble. This will void the warranty on the windows, as clear vinyl plastic can crack very easily at these temperatures. This top is meant to be a warm-weather topper. It is not intended to be used during cold temperatures or winter months.

**Returns** must be pre-approved and have Softoppers issued RGA number attached. Any defective items must be returned with proof of purchase to Softopper 4750 Nautilus Court South, Unit B Boulder CO 80301, **freight pre-paid**. Items returned must be carefully packed, in clean condition, with plastic windows protected from scratching and creasing. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from abuse, misuse, alteration, accident or damage in transit. Softoppers obligations under this warranty are limited to the aforementioned **repair** or **replacement** of warranty defects for which return authorization has been received during the warranty period, and Softopper SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING FROM BREACH OF THIS OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only. All remedies under this warranty are limited to repair or replacement of any item or items found to be defective by the factory within the time period specified.

For further information or request for repair work, please contact:  
**Softopper LLC**, customer service  
(800) 810-7227 or (303) 304-0533



## Softopper Care and Maintenance

**Your top is made of the finest materials available. To keep it looking new and for product longevity and durability, it will need periodic cleaning and maintenance.**

**Washing:** The fabric should be washed from time to time using a mild soap and warm water. Be sure to rinse all soap off the top when washing is complete.

**Vinyl Windows:** Windows should be kept clean to avoid scratching. Wash with a water-soaked sponge or cloth and a mild dishwashing detergent. **Do not use a coarse brush on the windows and never wipe the windows when they are dry.**

**Cold weather:** As with all automotive and marine clear vinyls, extreme care must be taken when rolling up or folding in cold temperatures. This point cannot be stressed enough! **Clear vinyl becomes stiff in cold temperatures and may crack. Retracting the Softopper in cold temperatures is not recommended.** When opening the rear of the Softopper in cold weather, be sure to raise the zippers as high as possible so that any folding will occur to the topper fabric and not to the clear vinyl window.

**Zippers:** Keeping the zippers clean and lubricated with a silicone lubricant will help prevent damage and keep the zippers in smooth working condition.

**Leakage:** As with any sewn automotive top there is always a slight risk of leakage. **Right out of the box the Softopper will not be waterproof.** Water seeping through at the seams may be stopped by applying **Seam Sure** (supplied), on the inside of the affected seams. Shake **Seam Sure** well and apply liberally to the inside seams concentrating on areas where needle and thread penetrated the fabric.

**Snaps:** Keep snaps clean and lubricated with a silicone lubricant to help prevent snaps from sticking to the studs. If a snap does become stuck to a stud, use a screwdriver and gently pry apart to prevent damage to the snap or top fabric. If any snaps need to be replaced due to sticking or damage please call **Softopper** and we can send out a small do-it-yourself repair kit.

For further information please contact:  
**Softopper LLC**, customer service  
(800) 810-7227 or (303) 304-0533